

SELF-ADHESIVE APPLIQUÉ FOR A COMPUTER POINTING DEVICE

REFERENCES TO PRIOR APPLICATIONS

[0001] The present application is related to co-pending U.S. Provisional Patent Application, serial number 60/456,981, filed March 24, 2003, and claims the benefit thereof.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to the general field of computer pointing devices, and more particularly, to adhesive appliqué applied to their external surface.

Description of the Related Art

[0003] Computer pointing devices, otherwise known as a computer mouse, are utilized by large numbers of people everyday. Due to the extended period of time people spend using their computers, the comfort of the pointing device or mouse is important. The current art computer mouse is generally constructed of a hard outer plastic shell, that can be uncomfortable to hold for long periods of time, and get slippery due to the build-up of soils and sweat from the user's hand. What is needed is a computer pointing device that has improved gripping surfaces more resistant to the build up of dirt and soils, and is more comfortable for the user.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] It is an object of the present invention to provide a computer pointing device including an outer surface having a first portion and a second portion, the first portion operative to support a user's palm when the computer pointing device is placed within said user's hand, and the second portion having at least one movable panel, placed within reach of at least one user's finger, operative to transmit a selection command from the computer pointing device to a computer by

deflection of the movable panel by the user's finger. A first appliqué is attached to the first portion of the outer surface and a second appliqué is attached to the movable panel.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0005] FIG. 1 is a cross-section view of an appliqué according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0006] FIG. 2 is a top view of an appliqué according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0007] FIG. 3 is a perspective view of a computer pointing device with affixed appliqués according to an embodiment of the present invention; and,

[0008] FIG. 4 is a top view of a computer pointing device with affixed appliqués according to an embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0009] The present invention is a self-adhesive, conformable appliqué for a computer pointing device or computer mouse. The appliqués are designed to conform to the surface of the computer mouse to cover areas of hand to mouse contact. It is an object of the present invention to provide an improved gripping surface to the mouse. It is an object of the present invention to provide enhanced comfort to the user of the computer mouse. It is an object of the present invention to reduce dirt, lint, sweat, and oils from contacting the computer mouse.

[0010] FIG. 1 is a cross-section view of an appliqué 10 according to an embodiment of the present invention. Appliqué 10 is formed by joining a textured top surface 11 and an adhesive backing 12. The textured top surface 11 is constructed from light weight, conformable, absorbent, and/or resilient material to provide a comfortable gripping surface for the computer mouse. The textured top surface 11 may be made from a variety of materials including, but not limited to, fabrics such as flannel, velvet, leather, or fleece; pliable gel; foam; plastic; or rubber. The bottom surface of the appliqué is comprised of adhesive backing 12 that is used to attach the appliqué 10 to the exterior surface of the computer mouse. The adhesive permits the appliqué to be easily applied, removed, and repositioned at the discretion of the user. The appliqués are

constructed of flexible material so that they conform to curved surfaces when applied thereto. The appliques may be produced in a wide variety of colors and patterns, which allows the user to customize their computer mouse. Additionally, the appliques can be produced with advertising logos or badges.

[0011] The present invention may be practiced over a wide range of appliqué shapes. The following figures illustrate the preferred embodiment of the present invention. It is to be understood that, rather than presenting an exhaustive list of possible embodiments of the present invention, the following figures present one example to demonstrate a possible appliqué shape that may be employed.

[0012] FIG. 2 is a top view of an appliqué 20 according to an embodiment of the present invention. The cross sectional view through 2-2 has been previously shown in Fig. 1. Appliqué 20 is comprised of five individual appliques 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25. The exemplary appliqué 20 is in the shape of a paw print.

[0013] FIG. 3 is a perspective view of a computer pointing device 30 with affixed appliques 21-25 according to an embodiment of the present invention. Appliques 21, 22, 23, and 25 are affixed to the surface of the computer mouse 30. Appliqué 21 is affixed to the left side of the mouse in the position where the thumb of a right handed user rests. Appliqué 22 is affixed to the left mouse button in the position where the index finger of a right handed user rests. Appliqué 23 is affixed to the right mouse button in the position where the middle finger of a right handed user rests. Appliqué 25 is affixed to the top rear portion of the computer mouse in the position where the palm of the user rests. Appliques may be positioned by the user in positions most comfortable to the natural grip of the user.

[0014] FIG. 4 is a top view of a computer pointing device with affixed appliques according to an embodiment of the present invention.